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A REPORT ON EGG AND MILK PRODUCTION

Conversation between E. J. Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service and Wallace L. Kadderly of the Radio Service, broadcast in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour. September 17, 1941. ★

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KADDERLY:

Yesterday our report from the Department's Marketing Service covered cold storage holdings, the hatchery report, and farm labor. Today, E. J. Rowell of the Agricultural Marketing Service is with us again and has two reports -- one on Poultry and egg production which was issued yesterday afternoon. The other is on dairy production and was issued this morning. Last April, Secretary Wickard called upon poultrymen for an unprecedented increase in egg production -- to meet the demand for home consumption and in addition, furnish supplies for Britain. He indicated the need for an increase of about 3 percent in 1941, and 14 percent in 1942 over 1940. This announcement was made early enough in the season -- and accompanied by a guarantee of price support -- to permit producers to change their plans. Tell us, Mike, just how successful have the poultrymen been in meeting this request of Secretary Wickard's?

ROWELL:

First, I'd like to explain that this was the year of normal decrease in egg production -- there were 3 percent fewer hens on farms at the beginning of this year than a year earlier. But, poultrymen reversed this trend and egg production has been at near record levels in recent months.

During the first 8 months of this year egg production was the largest since 1930. During August over 250 million dozen eggs were produced. That's the largest production for that month since 1929.

KADDERLY:

Was this increase because production per hen was larger, or because there were more hens, or both?

ROWELL:

Both. The rate of egg production per hen was a new record high for the month, and the total number of hens was about 1 percent larger than last year and the 10-year average. And if farmers keep two or three more hens than usual out of every 100 laying hens and pullets, as is anticipated, the number of laying hens on January 1 will reach the desired increase of 10 percent over the number of hens on farms at the beginning of this year and thus give us the extra eggs we need.

KADDERLY:

Yesterday you reported on the increase in the number of chicks produced this year over last. A lot of these are going into broilers, aren't they?

ROWELL:

More than usual. The number of broilers raised this year is about a fourth larger than last year. To put it another way, it's a gain of about 75 million pounds in the production of poultry meat. Although the Secretary's call was for more chickens to produce more eggs, the demand for broilers has been so good that production has continued at a high level.

KADDERLY:

I know there are many other things that this poultry and egg report contains, but if those are the highlights, let's take up that report on dairy production.

ROWELL:

New records for August production were set for creamery butter, cheese and probably evaporated milk. The production of these products was about 8 percent above August of last year and 10 percent above August of any previous year. Compared with increases in industrial production - 8 percent may be small, but this increase is at a faster rate than any of the last 15 or more years, except directly following the drought. The increase in milk production has been due to a 3 percent increase in the number of cows and a 3 percent increase in milk per cow. The increased production per cow has been due to feeding more grain and millfeeds.

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